



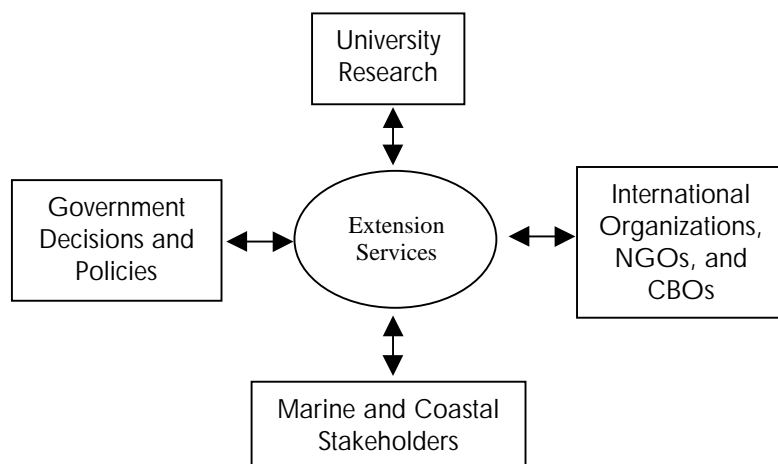
NOAA Sea Grant International Latin America and Caribbean Program



In Preparation for White Water to Blue Water the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (NOAA/OAR), the National Sea Grant College Program and the University of Rhode Island's Coastal Resources Center all have extensive experience fostering sustainable resource use and social development in the marine and coastal environment. NOAA/OAR's International Activities Office, in conjunction with its partners, is assessing the appropriate methods to adapt the Sea Grant model to Latin America and the wider Caribbean in collaboration with local, national, and international partners; preparing implementation plan requirements for potential Sea Grant programs in countries throughout the region; and promoting a region-wide Latin American Sea Grant network modeled on, and linked to, the U.S. Sea Grant network.

What is the Sea Grant Model?

Sea Grant programs coordinate university-based research, cooperative extension, technology transfer, education and outreach to foster wise stewardship of coastal and marine resources. Located in universities in 30 U.S. states and territories, Sea Grant is a collaborative partnership among government, academia, industry, scientists, and private citizens. Developed over three decades, the U.S. Sea Grant network includes thousands of scientists, extension specialists, and educators who can provide technical advice and assistance to Sea Grant International programs.



How Can Sea Grant Enhance Coastal and Marine Resource Management in Latin America and the Caribbean?

Sea Grant Programs:

- Provide a representative advisory group to build capacity, enhance collaboration, and exchange critical information between stakeholders at local, national, and international levels;
- Harmonize applied participatory research, technical assistance, training, and public education;
- Funnel resources to the most pressing social, economic, and environmental issues as identified by stakeholders; and
- Leverage resources and minimize duplication of efforts.

What's Next?

Communicate Sea Grant principles and structures to stakeholders and potential partners in Latin America and Washington, DC.

Develop with partners a shared vision of what a Sea Grant program would look like, how it would function, and key issues it would address in a Latin American/Caribbean context.

Develop a formal proposal with key government decision-makers, international development and conservation organizations, communities, and stakeholders that would address necessary institutional and financing mechanisms to establish Sea Grant programs in selected Latin American and Caribbean countries.

Developing the Sea Grant International Concept with Partners

NOAA Research International Activities in collaboration with the University of Rhode Island Coastal Resources Center and Rhode Island Sea Grant will lay the foundation for adapting the Sea Grant model to Latin America and the Caribbean, in conjunction with governments, universities and stakeholders. Developing the requirements for implementation plans for potential programs throughout Latin America and the wider Caribbean will establish the basis for a regional network of institutions throughout Latin America and the Caribbean dedicated to discovering and applying the knowledge, values, and technologies that lead to more sustainable forms of coastal development and conservation. Planned steps include:

Commission two comprehensive background papers to:

1. Analyze extension and research experience in developing country contexts by drawing from health, agriculture, and other resource fields and identify the factors that emerge as most critical to long-term success, including such issues as long-term financial stability and effective linkages between applied research, extension activities, and public education.
2. Identify the specific benefits that a Sea Grant model can bring to the resolution of complex marine and coastal resource issues, upstream and downstream, throughout Latin America and the wider Caribbean. This region illustrates different social, political, and environmental contexts, but each country is equally representative of a potential candidate member of a Sea Grant international network.

Analyze the social, economic and environmental conditions and trends in the region, drawing from the experience of existing international, regional, and local organizations working in each country. Assess the overall institutional capacity necessary to support a Sea Grant program.

Distribute and discuss a final white paper, resulting from the two background papers and a meeting of Sr. experts within the field of research and extension, with US and international institutions invested in coastal and marine issues and with potential donor partners with an interest in extending the Sea Grant model in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Convene One Symposium and Participate in White Water to Blue Water to:

1. Bring together senior international and national coastal leaders to discuss the two papers and the contextual analyses, develop guidelines for adapting the Sea Grant model to a developing country context, and discuss topics that emerge as important to the long term success of this undertaking.
2. Identify ways to pool resources to develop the Sea Grant model in Latin America and the Caribbean as well as address the principles and strategies brought forth in the background papers and the final white paper. Implementation strategies will be prepared for selected countries in Latin America and the Caribbean and the final documents will be shared with participants attending the White Water to Blue Water conference in Miami in 2004 where the Sea Grant model will be showcased. Attendants will include key government officials, representatives from selected Universities and regional and international organizations working in the region.

Partners

NOAA Research International
U.S. Department of State
University of Rhode Island Sea
Grant & Coastal Resources Center
National Sea Grant Program

Sea Grant International Commitment to Developing Partnerships:

The success of the Sea Grant model is based upon building on, rather than replacing, existing programs. Sea Grant International is committed to develop working partnerships with local governments, NGO's, international conservation groups, development organizations, and universities, that take into account priority conservation initiatives, regional expertise and cultural contexts of host countries.

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